

CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST (CITT)

External Affairs Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Stephen P. Clark Center

111 NW 1st Street

10th Floor Conference Room

10:00 a.m.

Summary of Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marc Buoniconti

Miles Moss

Hon. James Reeder

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Bruce Libhaber

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hilda Fernandez, Executive Director, OCITT

Patty David, OCITT

Barbara Bravo, OCITT

Nestor Toledo, OCITT

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Patrice Rosemond, OCITT

Susan Schreiber, MPO

Joel Perez, MDT

David Fialkoff, MDT

Rudy Adams, MDT

Judy Seidner, CMO

ROLL CALL

Mr. Marc Buoniconti called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Moss moved approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reeder and carried without dissent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2004

Mr. Reeder moved approval of the March 16, 2004 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moss and carried without dissent.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Federal/State Legislative Update

Ms. Lyn Harris, Special Assistant MDT Government Affairs Policy Development provided the members with an overview of the Office of Public Transportation Management FY 04 Miami-Dade County's Federal Legislative Package. (a copy of the booklet was distributed)

In addition, Ms. Harris informed the members that the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) formerly known as Tri-Rail has proposed the Dolphin Corridor Extension project which would run along SR-836 from the Tri-Rail Airport Station to the Florida Turnpike. The concern raised was that if SFRTA obtains any federal funding for that project that would make it affect the ridership numbers for the

East/West Corridor and would make it unlikely for Miami-Dade to receive to receive any federal funding for the East/West Corridor. The difference between the numbers of passengers is substantial; the Dolphin Extension would be a commuter rail system and would serve 5,900 passengers a day as opposed to the East/West Corridor a full rail system serving 33,000 passengers a day. Ms. Harris also mentioned that the South Florida Congressional Delegation has sent a letter in support of the Transportation Appropriations for FY 2005 which includes a \$5 million request for the Dolphin Corridor Extension. The County has expressed its concern and is preparing a response illustrating the difference between the two proposals. Once the county manager approves the response it will be distributed. Ms. Virginia Diaz, Division Director External Affairs, OCITT, stated that the Board of County Commissioners Transportation Committee will be discussing the item at the April 22 meeting. (A copy of the memorandum from the County Manager regarding the East-West Corridor and SFRTA Dolphin Corridor Extension was distributed).

Mr. Reeder moved to approve a resolution supporting Miami-Dade County's position in directing the county selected consultant to update and revalidate the previous findings, and reaffirm the recommended transportation solution, for the SR-836 corridor, including the consideration of all previously examined options, as well as other options that may be viable but not part of the original study, including but not limited to a commuter rail extension along the CSX corridor, bus rapid transit, and any other options that the federal transportation administration may determine should be considered. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moss and carried without dissent.

Ms. Fernandez provided the committee with a brief overview of the corridors that were included in the booklet.

MUNICIPAL STATUS UPDATE

Ms. Diaz updated the members on the municipal status. She stated that each municipality continues to receive its share of surtax proceeds on a monthly basis. (a copy of the request for payment of municipal surtax proceeds was distributed) She noted that Indian Creek Village receives a one time lump payment of \$625.00. There are two municipalities that have not submitted its PTP transportation plans, the Town of Medley and the Town of Golden Beach. Staff has been working closely with their representatives in assisting them with their transportation plans. Both cities have indicated that they would be submitting their plans by the end of May 2004. In addition, Ms. Diaz informed the committee that staff has visited different municipalities 54 times providing assistance or information they have requested. Lastly, she announced that a Municipal Transportation Workshop is scheduled Friday, May 21, 2004 at the Town of Medley. (copy of the agenda was distributed)

Ms. Diaz asked Bruce Libhaber, County Attorney to provide a brief overview of the Nesbit Case regarding the ADA settlement with Miami-Dade County. Mr. Libhaber stated that the Settlement Agreement stipulates that the County needs to bring all of its bus stops up to ADA Compliance which will be a major undertaking for the departments of Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) and Public Works Department (PWD). He noted that the settlement reads: "In the municipalities throughout Dade County, Defendant will advise said municipalities that curb cuts should be installed because Defendant does not have jurisdiction over municipal sidewalks." Mr. Libhaber reviewed the timelines of the settlement. Members requested a copy of the settlement agreement.

COMPREHENSIVE BUS OPERATIONS ANALYSIS UPDATE

Mr. Mark Alvarez, Principal Investigator, Center for Urban Transportation Research University of South Florida (CUTR) provided the members with an overview of the Comprehensive Bus Operations Analysis. He stated that the analysis contains a lot of components, however the three major deliverables are:

- 1) Schedule Changes for 22 routes
- 2) Schedule Changes for the entire MDT system
- 3) April 2005 line-up a set of recommendations that will be comprehensive

He further explained the scheduled changes that have been recommended thus far are for the priority routes. The priority routes were determined by:

- highest ridership routes,
- the five routes that had the most complaints per mile,
- either increases or decreases in ridership,
- schedule problems.

The following 22 routes make up one-third of the entire system.

There are three major data activities:

- 1) Ride check- a surveyor rides the bus for 85 percent of the route on weekdays and records each time point, 75 percent on Saturdays, and 50 percent on Sundays. The ride check started in January and continued until the end of May for all the routes.
- 2) Passenger Survey – the last survey that was conducted in Miami-Dade was 1993. The passenger survey contains 18 questions and this is a 10 percent sampling level.
- 3) Bus Operator Survey

The recommendations that have been made to MDT so far for the 22 routes are to increase time to the schedules which will improve on-time performance. Those changes should be made incrementally. Members requested another report in July.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INITIATIVES – MDT

Ms. Ruth Hemingway, Assistant Director, Customer Services MDT, provided the committee an overview of the Customer Services Development responsibilities:

The division is composed of the following units:

- Transit Information Unit - provides information seven days a week. The unit is responsible for disseminating transit information to anyone who would like to know how to get from point A to point B.
- Customer Comment Unit – is open Monday through Friday. The unit receives either positive feedback or complaints. The customer does not need to disclose his/her name to the comment card. It will still be investigated. A monthly report card is provided and distributed to the agency.
- Community Outreach is done through town hall meetings, homeowner associations meetings, community councils meetings, etc

Ms. Hemingway announced that MDT is in the process of opening four satellite centers in conjunction with Team Metro offices throughout Miami-Dade County. This will facilitate the public to obtain transit services or information without having to go to the main office downtown. In addition, Ms. Hemingway mentioned that MDT has been working with the Regional Transit Authority, Broward and Palm Beach counties in

developing a Regional Consumer Network. Currently, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) provides traffic information for Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties by simply dialing "511" through its Advance Transit Intermodal System (ATIS). In October 2004 transit related information is also going to be added to the "511" for all three counties. This service will help anyone who would like to travel from county to county and assist them with how to get there.

Mr. Joel Perez, Quality Service Supervisor, MDT provided an overview of the division responsibilities:

- Provides the department with division audits to ensure that all MDT divisions are meeting its organizational goals that have been established for each division.
- Monitors weekly and monthly reports generated by the Customer Services division to ensure that the numbers of complaints are reduced.
- Monitors bus routes and rail schedules to ensure services are being delivered.
- Meets with passengers who have made a complaint
- Responds to emergency situations on Metrorail and Metromover and work to establish crowd control and provide passengers with alternate travel routes.
- Monitors Special Transportation Services (STS) contractors to ensure that they are maintaining their schedules in accordance.
- Performs monthly field inspections of rail stations, bus stops, rail vehicles and buses to ensure that the standards set by MDT are being met.
- Provides information to the public regarding transportation available for sponsored special events

Mr. Moss stated that it was suggested to place a comment box on the buses or at the transit stations so that if someone had a comment/complaint they did not have to make a call. Ms. Hemingway responded that she will take that suggestion into consideration. Mr. Clinton Forbes, Assistant Director, MDT, informed the committee that MDT is making a presentation at the BCC Transportation Committee April 22, 2004 regarding the "Call Boxes" at the request of Commissioner Joe Martinez.

ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION BY THE CITT APPROVING A POLICY THAT ESTABLISHES TIMELINES AND DEADLINES FOR THE REVIEW, APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF PROPOSED PTP AMENDMENTS OR PTP-FUNDED CONTRACTS

Mr. Bruce Libhaber, County Attorney, stated that a correction needs to be made to the resolution language "PTP FUNDED CONTRACTS" should read as: "CHARTER COUNTY TRANSIT SYSTEM SALES SURTAX" (SURTAX).

Ms. Fernandez explained that last January 2004 the CITT approved a "Concurrent Contract Review" process that set forth a policy for the timely review of PTP-funded contracts. The process allows for the review and consideration of PTP-funded contracts by the appropriate committee, concurrent with the review of the BCC. Seven contracts were approved by the CITT in an average of 15 days following BCC approval. In addition, the CITT meeting calendar has been adjusted to accommodate the concurrent review with the BCC meetings. All CITT board meetings will be held 15 days after the BCC meets. Ms. Fernandez further explained in detail the proposed policy to define the timing for review and approval of PTP amendments and PTP-funded contracts. (a copy of the cover memorandum was distributed).

Mr. Moss moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reeder and carried without dissent.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Fernandez asked that the OCITT Business Plan be deferred until next month.

Ms. Fernandez introduced John Labriola, who has been hired as the Public Information Officer. Mr. John Labriola informed the committee that he has been writing for community newspapers for Dade and Broward counties and looks forward working with the CITT members.

Ms. Fernandez informed the members that the item for the Financial Consultant RFP has been placed on the BCC Transportation Committee as a "Discussion Only Item" for April 22, 2004. Staff has met with Department of Business Development about different options that are available. A slightly modified "scope of services" has been developed and will be presented to the Budget and Finance committee April 22, 2004.

Ms. Fernandez also stated that the Proposed Amendment to Ordinance 02-116 relating to the power of the CITT is scheduled for public hearing at the BCC Transportation Committee May 20, 2004. Mr. Libhaber explained that if the Transportation Committee were to approve the item and forwarded it with a favorable recommendation to the entire BCC it would be heard at the June 8 meeting. If the BCC approved the item it would need to wait 10 days for the Mayoral veto period. If the Mayor were not to veto the item it would go into effect the end of June. It requires a two-thirds vote of the BCC to amend an Ordinance.

Mr. Moss moved to urge the BCC to withdraw the proposed amendment to Section 2-1421 and 29-124 of the County Code relating to the process for amendments to the PTP and setting forth deadlines for CITT action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reeder and carried without dissent.

Ms. Fernandez stated that the resolution would be presented at the Budget & Finance Committee on April 22, 2004.

ADJOURNMENT

The External Affairs Committee adjourned at 12:10 p.m.